

NEWS.

PROFESSOR C. R. BARNES has returned to his post after a vacation of nine months. In the course of travel he visited many of the botanical establishments of Europe.

DR. J. C. ARTHUR was granted leave of absence by Purdue University and spent January and part of February at the New York Botanical Garden in studying the genera and generic types of the Uredineae.

DR. KARL GUSTAV LIMPRICHT, the bryologist, died October 20, 1902, at the age of 68 years. His monumental work is the uncompleted *Laubmoose Deutschlands Oesterreichs und der Schweiz*, of which, however, only supplementary parts remain to be published.

MISS LOUISE BRISBIN DUNN, tutor in botany in Barnard College, Columbia University, died suddenly of heart disease early on the morning of December 18. She was a graduate of Barnard and since her graduation has been a member of the teaching staff. — *Science*.

MR. A. E. DICKEY of Indianapolis has recently endowed the biological library of De Pauw University. The endowment is in the form of a memorial to Mr. Dickey's father, the late Governor Alfred Dickey, of North Dakota, and the library will hereafter be known as the Alfred Dickey Biological Library. Mr. A. E. Dickey is a graduate of De Pauw University of the class of '94.

MESSRS. HENRY HOLT & CO. announce that Kerner and Oliver's *Natural History of Plants* will no longer be published in four parts, but that in future it will be issued in a lower priced edition in two volumes. The new edition will lack only the colored illustrations of the former more expensive one, which were inserted mainly for embellishment, but retains all the other illustrations, which were an essential part of the work.

AT THE last convocation of the University of Chicago it was announced that a gift of \$20,000 had been made to increase the biological library, which now numbers only about 12,000 volumes. The money being immediately available, a committee is already directing the expenditure. All imperfect sets of periodicals will be completed as far as possible, new series will be purchased and maintained, and the balance will be applied to the purchase of single works. The gift will greatly improve the library facilities in the biological departments.

ONE OF THE recent important investigations undertaken by the Bureau of Forestry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is a study of the relationship of forests to stream-flow in the Rock River watershed of Illinois and southeast-

ern Wisconsin. For some years a marked decrease has been noticed in the flow of this river, especially during the more critical parts of the summer and autumn. The investigation which the Bureau of Forestry made of this watershed shows that the diminished flow of the river can be traced to several distinct causes. The most important of these are the changes that have taken place in the area and the condition of the forests.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the Carnegie Institution has made an appropriation of \$8,000 for the establishment and maintenance of a desert botanical laboratory for the fiscal year 1902-3, and at the request of the Executive Committee of the Institution Dr. D. T. MacDougal, Director of the Laboratories, has been permitted to serve with Mr. Frederick V. Coville, Chief of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as an advisory board in relation to this undertaking.

The desert laboratory has been established for the purpose of making a thorough investigation of the physiological and morphological features of plants under the unusual conditions to be found in desert regions, with particular reference to the relations of the characteristic vegetation to water, light, temperature, and other special factors.

A resident investigator, to be placed in immediate charge of the laboratory, will begin a series of researches upon certain more important problems outlined by the board, and facilities will be provided by the aid of which a few other investigators from any part of the world may carry on work upon any problem connected with desert plants.

North America contains more than a million square miles of territory known to the geologist, geographer, and botanist as desert. The conditions offered vegetation in these districts show such wide departures from those of humid temperate and tropical regions, the living flora is accessible to so few workers, and the entailed investigations are necessarily so wide in scope, and so expensive and difficult in execution, that the advance of systematic knowledge of the fundamental processes of desert plants has been comparatively slow, and this lack of information has made many current generalizations concerning the activity of plants very unsafe. The establishment of this laboratory promises results concerning the fundamental processes of plant protoplasm as important as any in the whole realm of botany, and withal results which once known and incorporated in the science of botany might well offer facts of the greatest value not only to the inhabitants of the arid regions of America, but to the people of other desert regions as well, since no similar inquiry has yet been instituted in any part of the world. — *Jour. N. Y. Bot. Garden.*

DR. W. A. CANNON has been selected as resident investigator of the Desert Botanical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution. Mr. Frederick V. Coville and Dr. D. T. MacDougal started on January 24 to make an inspection of the region along the Mexican boundary from the Pecos river in Texas to the Pacific Ocean, for the purpose of fixing on a site.

THE GATHERING of botanists at Washington during "Convocation Week" was the largest that has ever occurred in the history of this country. Besides the meetings of Section G, A. A. A. S., and its informal Botanical Club, meetings were held of the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology and of the Botanical Society of America. Over one hundred professional botanists were registered, and it is safe to say that at least fifty others more or less directly interested in botanical matters were in attendance.

Before Section G, Mr. F. V. Coville presiding, the retiring president, Dr. D. H. Campbell, of Leland Stanford University, gave an address on "The evolution of land plants." About twenty five papers were admitted to the program and read in full or by title. The sessions closed on Wednesday. Professor T. H. Macbride was elected president for the next meeting, which is to be held in St. Louis December 28, 1903-January 2, 1904. Dr. F. E. Lloyd was elected secretary for five years.

The Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology met on Tuesday and Wednesday. Eighteen papers were read in full; seven others were presented by title. The proposed central bureau of the Association Internationale des Botanistes was discussed, and the decision was unanimous that the proposed bureau would not be useful in proportion to its cost and the labor of maintaining it. The following were elected members: W. A. Cannon, New York Botanical Garden; Judson F. Clark, Cornell University; G. P. Clinton, Connecticut Experiment Station; W. C. Coker, University of North Carolina; C. C. Curtis, Columbia University; E. J. Durand, Cornell University; J. E. Kirkwood, Syracuse University; W. A. Orton, Department of Agriculture, Washington; K. M. Wiegand, Cornell University. Dr. Roland Thaxter, of Harvard University, was elected president; Professor Conway MacMillan, of the University of Minnesota, vice-president; and Professor W. F. Ganong, of Smith College, secretary-treasurer. Thirty-five members were in attendance.

The Botanical Society of America met on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday. The retiring president, Dr. J. C. Arthur, of Purdue University, gave an address, illustrated by lantern slides, on "Problems suggested by cultures of the Uredineae." Forty papers were read in full or by title. No new members were elected on account of the defective report of the committee on membership. A committee was appointed to confer with similar committees from other botanical societies, for the purpose of securing cooperation and, if possible, federation. Dr. C. R. Barnes, of the University of Chicago, was elected president; Mr. J. N. Rose, of the U. S. National Museum, vice-president; Dr. D. T. MacDougal, of the New York Botanical Garden, secretary; and Dr. Arthur Hollick, of the New York Botanical Garden, treasurer.

The botanists of the central states organized themselves into a society, electing Professor Conway MacMillan, of the University of Minnesota, president, and Dr. C. F. Millspaugh, of the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, secretary. Arrangements for the next meeting are left to an executive committee.